

17. (Amended) The immunogenic peptide of claim 16 having the sequence KTWGQYWQV (SEQ.ID.NO:46), KTWGQYWQVL (SEQ ID NO:47), ITDQVPFSV (SEQ ID NO:48) [and]; or TITDQVPFSV (SEQ ID NO:49).

19. (Amended) The immunogenic peptide of claims 16, 17, or 18 wherein said peptide contains at least one amino acid modification of said gp100 sequence.

22. (Amended) An immunogenic peptide having the [a] formula selected from the group consisting of $X_1X_2X_3GQYWQX_4$, $X_1X_2X_3QVPFSX_4$ and $X_1X_2X_3PGPVTX_4$ wherein:

X_1 is any naturally occurring amino acid;

X_2 is any hydrophobic aliphatic amino acid;

X_3 is any naturally occurring amino acid; and

X_4 is any [a] hydrophobic aliphatic amino acid.

23. (Amended) The peptide of claim 22 wherein the amino acid for X_1 is selected from the group consisting of methionine, leucine, alanine, glycine, threonine, isoleucine, valine tyrosine, serine, tryptophan, phenylalanine, serine, lysine [or] and aspartic acid.

24. (Amended) The peptide of claim 22 wherein X_2 is selected from the group consisting of methionine, leucine, alanine, glycine, isoleucine, valine [or] and threonine.

25. (Amended) The peptide of claim 22 wherein X_3 is selected from the group consisting of methionine, leucine, alanine, glycine, threonine, isoleucine, tyrosine, valine, tryptophan, phenylalanine, serine, lysine [or] and aspartic acid.

26. (Amended) The peptide of claim 22 wherein X₄ is selected from the group consisting of methionine, leucine, alanine, glycine, isoleucine, valine [or] and threonine.

28. (Amended) The immunogenic peptide of [any one of claims 1, 9,] claim 15 or claim 22 wherein said peptide is a native, synthetic or recombinant peptide.

29. (Amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising the peptides of [any one of claims 1, 9,] claim 15 or claim 22 and an acceptable excipient, diluent or carrier.

30. (Amended) A method of [preventing or] treating melanoma in a mammal comprising administering the pharmaceutical composition of claim 29 to a mammal in an effective amount to stimulate the production of [protective antibodies or] immune cells.

31. (Amended) An immunogenic composition [A vaccine] for immunizing a mammal comprising a peptide according to [any one of claims 1, 9,] claim 15 or claim 22 in a pharmacologically acceptable carrier.

REMARKS

Claims 1-38 are pending in this application. Claims 15-18, 22-26 and 27-31 stand rejected, claims 19-21 are objected to, and claims 1-14, 27-31 and 32-38 are withdrawn from consideration. Support for the amendments may be found throughout the specification. Reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.